

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

113437

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Agriculture and Livestock in Bulgaria	DATE DISTR.	25 February 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	8
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

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1. The contour of the land, together with the climate and the abundance of irrigation water, has given Bulgaria a predominantly agricultural character from remote times. Seventy-five percent of the population farmed, either in small strip farms or on an extensive basis. The ownership of land is divided approximately as follows:
 - a. Private ownership, 48 percent;
 - b. Cooperative farms, 25 percent;
 - c. State-owned farms, 8 percent;
 - d. Various enterprises, 2 percent; and
 - e. Uncultivated land, 18 percent.
2. The various land areas are farmed approximately as follows:
 - a. Planted fields, 37.6 percent;
 - b. Natural meadows, 2.5 percent;
 - c. Tree culture, 2.6 percent;
 - d. Forests, 30.7 percent; and
 - e. Pastures and other land, 27.2 percent.
3. The cultivated area was divided into small farms after the country was liberated from the Turkish yoke. This brought about the followings:
 - a. Approximately 80,000 farms of less than two hectares, accounting for 3.3 percent of the cultivated area;

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25 YEAR

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- b. Approximately 320,000 farms from two to 10 hectares, accounting for 51.7 percent of the cultivated area;
- c. About 90,000 farms from 10 to 30 hectares, accounting for 36.9 percent of the cultivated area;
- d. Approximately 1,000 farms from 30 to 100 hectares, accounting for 5.7 percent of the cultivated area; and
- e. Approximately 500 farms of more than 100 hectares, accounting for 2.4 percent of the cultivated area.

Period Prior to 1939Agriculture

- 4. In the period prior to 1939, the cultivated land comprised 40.2 percent of the land area, while the remaining 59.8 percent consisted of woods and uncultivated land. The cultivated land was divided approximately as follows:
 - a. Seeded, 76.5 percent;
 - b. Fallow land, 12.9 percent;
 - c. Natural pastures, 7.3 percent; and
 - d. Tree cultivation, 3.3 percent.
- 5. The following chart shows the chief crops planted, with the approximate area and production (in quintals):

<u>Product</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Production</u>
Cereals	2,674,610	31,175,550
Industrial plants	162,582	--
Vegetables	86,517	747,283
Potatoes	13,606	727,157
Gardens	36,562	--
Legumes	13,244	1,329,127
Forage	614,402	--
Vineyards	93,372	3,884,079
Rose bushes	6,763	81,265
Orchards	19,862	630,952
Mulberry bushes	4,635	251,286

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6. The following chart shows the area, production in quintals, and the average production per hectare, of the chief cereal products, tobacco, beets, oil seeds, and textile fibers:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Area in Hectares</u>	<u>Prod. in Quintals</u>	<u>Av. Production</u>
Wheat	1,260,058	10,776,000	8.5
Rye	199,854	1,635,000	8.2
Barley	299,112	1,874,500	8.5
Oats	128,474	745,000	5.8
Corn	684,767	7,897,500	11.5
Rice	7,993	119,165	14.9
Tobacco	34,344	281,500	9.5
Beets	7,558	1,130,000	113.7
Sunflowers	107,606	806,480	7.5
Rape	15,601	83,050	5.3
Cotton	19,483	92,400	4.7
Hemp	5,546	19,420	3.5
Flax	1,130	3,625	3.2

Livestock

7. In the period prior to 1939, there was about the following number of animals:
- a. Sheep, approximately 8,739,000;
 - b. Horses, approximately 482,000;
 - c. Mules, approximately 27,000;
 - d. Asses, approximately 185,300;
 - e. Goats, approximately 1,260,650;
 - f. Buffalo, approximately 448,200;
 - g. Cattle, approximately 1,817,400; and
 - h. Pigs, approximately 1,002,100.
8. The existence of an extensive aviculture made possible the exportation of many eggs. Apiculture was intense as far as hives were concerned, but the production

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of honey and wax was inadequate. In the southern part of the country (Kharmanlii, Svilengrad, Asenovgrad, Momchilgrad, and Stara Zagora), silk worms were cultivated very intensively (approximately 2,000,000 kilograms of cocoons).

Communist Period

Agriculture

9. Immediately after coming into power (9 September 1944), the Communist Party gave particular attention to the collectivization of land, bringing in a system analagous to that of the Soviet Union. The various phases in the legislative field which characterized the work of Sovietization of agricultural activity may be listed chronologically as follows:
 - a. 1944 - the issuing of an order relative to the expropriation of land holdings greater than 30 hectares;
 - b. 1945 - the promulgation of the law for the formation of agricultural co-operatives;
 - c. September 1947 - the fixing of norms for the operation of the agricultural collective organizations by means of a decree of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Communist Party;
 - d. 1948 - the partial modification of the norms regarding the organization, production, and payment of labor through Order No. 138 of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Communist Party; and
 - e. 1951 - the decree on norms for the development of the agricultural economy by order of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Communist Party which provided for the following:
 - The creation of forest belts for the protection of the land.
 - The increase in irrigation and the building of installations for this purpose.
 - The obligation to rotate crops imposed particularly upon the private farmers.
 - The improvement of work methods and the widespread use of fertilizers.
 - Careful selection of seeds.
 - Collaboration of material and technical help for the reclamation of the Dobrudzha through the creation of scientific and research institutes.
 - The improvement of communications routes for the marketing of products.

Cooperative Farms and Machine-Tractor Stations

10. The cooperatives were formed by the merging of small parcels of bordering land strips, often adding to land bordering State holdings. Peasant brigades of 25 to 60 men and their families, depending on the land area resulting by these reorganizations, were formed to carry out the work of the farm cooperatively.

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11. Next, the following details and regulations were established:
 - a. Work "norms;"
 - b. The system for paying each worker for the day's work carried out (payment in money or in kind, depending on the product); and
 - c. The criterion to be followed for the distribution of profits, as follows:
 - 90 percent to be divided among the members as compensation for the work done and for rent.
 - 10 percent to be left at the disposal of the cooperative for general management expenses.
12. The profits were established after the following have been subtracted from the gross total production:
 - a. The State share, which is established annually according to products;
 - b. The seed quantities are set aside;
 - c. The Machine-Tractor Station has been paid its due amount; and
 - d. Feed for the animals has been determined.
13. Since 1945, the agricultural cooperative has shown a progressive increase solely because of the firm wish of the government to establish complete collectivization. Cooperative membership until 1952 was as follows:
 - a. In 1948, 296 members;
 - b. In 1950, 1,600 members;
 - c. In 1951, approximately 2,000 members; and
 - d. In 1952, 2,700 members, who controlled 48 percent of the land, half of the rural population, and two-thirds of the farm production.
14. Machine-Tractor Stations were established to start the mechanization of farm work. At first, because of the limited amount of equipment, the stations were small in number and absolutely inadequate to meet the needs of the cooperatives. Then, by means of continuous imports of agricultural machinery from the Soviet Union and the other Satellites, new stations were created. Their efficiency remained limited, however, since the USSR sent in used machinery, either discarded material which was to be repaired or which was no longer usable. The absence of spare parts and the lack of technical knowledge of the mechanical equipment on the part of the tractor drivers always contributed notably to long periods of inactivity at the stations.
15. In 1952, there were 117 Machine-Tractor Stations with a total of 8,500 tractors and 500 reapers. The number of tractors in 1951 was 7,300, and it is planned that there shall be approximately 12,000 by the end of 1953.

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Government Provisions for the Assistance of Agriculture

16. Governmental provisions for agricultural betterment are as follows:
- The establishment of special agricultural schools, for which 900,000,000 leva (old currency, worth about 1,962,000,000 lire) were appropriated in 1951. The following theoretical-practical courses are taught in these schools:
 - Agriculture.
 - Horticulture and fruit growing.
 - Viticulture.
 - The construction of numerous irrigation canals connected with the dams of the hydroelectric centrals, covering the Dobrudzha and the plains of Sofia, Stara Zagora, Kazanluk, Plovdiv, and Pazardzhik, and the zones of Popovo, Nevrokop, and Petrovo.

Production of the Principal Farm Crops

17. Data available as of the end of 1952 concerning the production of agricultural crops are not sufficient to form an exact and complete picture of present production. From the chart which follows, concerning the cultivated area for each product and the production in quintals cited for the years 1939 and 1952 for comparison, it appears that the cultivated areas have been greatly increased for tobacco, sunflowers, cotton, beets, and vineyards, while the remaining crops have not varied greatly. The 1952 production figures which are approximate calculations are marked with an asterisk, and those figures without asterisks represent known data:

<u>Product</u>	<u>1939</u>		<u>1952</u>	
	<u>Area</u> (Hectares)	<u>Production</u> (Quintals)	<u>Area</u> (Hectares)	<u>Production</u> (Quintals)
Wheat	1,260,058	10,776,000	1,260,000	12,000,000
Corn	684,767	7,897,500	726,000	7,800,000
Rice	7,993	119,165	7,000	118,000 *
Tobacco	34,334	1,130,000	62,000	2,034,000 *
Sunflowers	107,606	806,480	153,000	1,100,000 *
Cotton	19,483	92,400	42,000	190,000 *
Beets	7,558	1,130,000	18,000	2,300,000 *
Roses	6,763	81,265	6,200	81,000 *
Vineyards	93,372	3,884,079	146,000	7,000,000

18. The cultivation of roses and strawberries merits particular mention. Rose culture is particularly widespread in the areas of Kazanluk and Karlovo (the Tundzha valley). The roses are used for the production of rose oil. Rose oil (annual

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production 2,500 to 3,000 kilograms) was a very important export item until the lower-priced synthetic products won out in competition with it.

19. Strawberry raising is typical of the Plovdiv region where entire villages specialize in the cultivation of the fruit. A small part of the annual product (varying between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 quintals) is destined for national and export consumption as fresh fruit, and the remainder is sent to the marmalade factories.
20. The Bulgarian governmental organizations have devoted considerable attention to the livestock problem. However, due to the insistence of the Soviet Union for the industrialization of Bulgaria, the government has been unable to devote a greater effort to its aim of improving the livestock situation. Several government measures aimed at increasing the number of farm animals were passed. Among these were the following:
 - a. The creation of schools for teaching theory and practice of animal husbandry; and
 - b. Experimental stations for breeding cattle were established; there were 9,311 of these as of the end of 1952, divided as follows:
 - 2,294 for cattle.
 - 1,504 for horses.
 - 2,582 for sheep.
 - 1,326 for pigs.
 - 1,605 for barnyard animals.
21. No data are available concerning the livestock census as of 1944 when the Communists came into power. However, comparison between 1936 and 1952 shows that the total number of livestock has still not reached the 1939 level.
22. The following chart shows livestock totals as of 1939, data available on nearly all categories of livestock as of the end of 1952, and the total increases or decreases in each category. Because of a lack of accurate data, it is assumed that the number of mules and asses remains unchanged.

<u>Type of Animal</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>
Sheep	8,739,000	8,784,000	45,000	--
Horses	482,000	549,000	67,000	--
Mules	27,000		--	--
Asses	185,300		--	--
Cattle	1,817,400	1,711,000	--	106,400
Buffalo	448,200	311,000	--	137,200
Goats	1,260,650	1,068,000	--	192,650
Pigs	1,002,100	1,028,000	25,900	--
		<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>137,900</u>	<u>436,250</u>

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23. The development in the agriculture and livestock fields which the Communist Party and the government had hoped to reach from the time they attained power until the present has not been such as to bring about an improvement in the condition of the people. The reasons why these plans have failed are as follows:
- a. The large discontent aroused among the farmers following the measures taken for collectivization of the lands and passive resistance on the part of the individual owners of strips of land;
 - b. The high quotas imposed on the cooperatives and on the individual producers by the government, which also brought about a considerable increase in the prices on the black market;
 - c. The effort made toward industrializing the country which took away a large amount of manpower from the fields and from the livestock;
 - d. An increase in the Armed Forces and the Militia which also took a large number of people; and
 - e. The failure to achieve the objectives planned concerning irrigation and canalization works, most of which are still under construction.
24. In addition to the reasons given above should be added the agreement on the part of the State to furnish the Soviet Union with agricultural and food products in general in exchange for industrial products, all of which brought about an increasing shortage of commodities on the domestic market and discontent among the people who saw themselves deprived of the necessities of life.

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